

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

One of the things we always examine when deciding if a country is a democracy, is how the media is controlled. We would never consider a country airing extreme and unbalanced programming shortly before a government election a democracy. Doing so is direct electioneering by a corporate media giant - which IS ILLEGAL in this country.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. There is nothing wrong with broadcasting an opinion when you are also airing all the opinions. Sinclair is a great example of how Big Media is suffocating journalism and democracy itself. At all times, but especially in an election year, we need to drastically reduce hyperbolic "newsertainment" and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.